

‘That’s our life in Oregon’

ROSE FESTIVAL
continued from page 8

Casino would continue its sponsorship of the event for another three years, which makes it the longest-running title sponsor in the history of the Grand Floral Parade.

“I have always looked at our sponsorship as more of a partnership,” Huffman said. “These are people I consider to be my friends.”

She was also excited that the Tribe’s float won the Governor’s Award.

“That’s our life in Oregon,” Huffman said. “I don’t think there was a better award to win.”

Before the parade began, Grand Ronde Royalty and Veterans Royalty members received a behind-the-scenes sneak peek at the various floats in the staging area behind the coliseum, and had the opportunity to see Rose Festival Court members who visited Chachalu Museum & Cultural Center and achaf-hammi, the Tribal plankhouse, on May 9.

Royalty also participated in the Starlight Parade held at 9 p.m. Saturday, June 1, in downtown Portland.

Grand Ronde Royalty members Junior Miss Grand Ronde Kaleigha Simi, Little Miss Grand Ronde Sophia Grout, Senior Miss Grand Ronde Isabelle Grout, Veterans Senior Queen Mabel Brisbois, Veterans Junior Queen Tasina Bluehorse and Veterans Junior Warrior Nacoma Liebelt accompanied the casino float when it entered Memorial Coliseum and began the parade route.

“My favorite part of this is seeing which princess gets crowned for the Rose Festival,” Brisbois said.

“I like seeing all of the cool floats,” Liebelt said.

Isabelle Grout, 15, has been participating in the festival for “as long as I can remember.”

“It’s always fun getting to see all of the princesses,” she said.

After the final floats rolled through the coliseum and chalet area, the crowd began to disperse, some to continue on to the City-Fair carnival, where they could festival on and view the floats and mini-floats on display along Naito Parkway. ■



Photos by Timothy J. Gonzalez

The Spirit Mountain Casino float “Keeping Culture Alive at Willamette Falls” passes through Memorial Coliseum during the Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade held in Portland on Saturday, June 8. The casino’s float won the Governor’s Award for the best depiction of life in Oregon.



The Spirit Mountain Casino float “Keeping Culture Alive at Willamette Falls” makes its way along the route during the Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade held in Portland on Saturday, June 8.



Spectators watch as the Spirit Mountain Casino float “Keeping Culture Alive at Willamette Falls” makes its way along the route during the Spirit Mountain Casino Grand Floral Parade held in Portland on Saturday, June 8.



From left, Grand Ronde Royalty members Junior Miss Grand Ronde Kaleigha Simi, Little Miss Grand Ronde Sophia Grout, Senior Miss Grand Ronde Isabelle Grout and Senior Veterans Queen Mabel Brisbois wait to escort the Spirit Mountain Casino float “Keeping Culture Alive at Willamette Falls.”